

## Ondansetron (Zofran®)

### Classification:

Anitemetetic

### Actions/Pharmacology:

Blocks the effects of serotonin at 5-HT<sub>3</sub>-receptor sites (selective antagonist) located in vagal nerve terminals and the chemoreceptor trigger zone in the CNS.

### Indications:

Nausea and vomiting, regardless of mechanism  
Prior to morphine administration, consider

### Contraindications:

Age < 4 years  
Parkinson's patients receiving apomorphine

### Side and Adverse effects:

Headache  
Sedation  
Constipation  
Diarrhea  
Transient blindness  
May cause transient dizziness after IV administration  
May cause prolonged QT interval and/or Torsade de Pointes  
May cause transient oculogyric crisis and dystonic reactions

### Adult Administration:

4mg IM or orally dissolving tablet (ODT)  
**or**  
4mg **slow IVP** over 2 to 5 minutes  
May repeat any route one time in 10 minutes with SFTP or Base Hospital order  
Maximum adult dose 8mg

### Pediatric Administration:

**Must be 4 years of age and older**  
4mg IM or ODT  
**or**  
4mg **slow IVP** over 2 to 5 minutes  
Maximum pediatric dose 4mg. No repeat dose.  
For patients who weigh **less than 40kg** use only ODT route

### Onset:

Rapid  
Peak effect  
Intravenous - 10 minutes  
Intramuscular - 40 minutes  
Oral - 2 hours  
Duration - 4 hours

### Interactions:

When taken with apomorphine, may cause hypotension and ALOC

### Precautions:

Tablet should not be handled with moist or wet hands  
May cause prolonged QT interval and/or Torsade de Pointes – Patients receiving IV administration should be placed on cardiac monitor

### Special Considerations:

Tablet should be placed onto tongue and allowed to dissolve